A General

EPISTLE

To be read in all the

Christian Meetings

IN THE

WORLD.

Bleſſed is he that readeth, and bleſſed is he that heareth and underſtandeth, and the eyes that ſee,

Read this over, and you may read that which you have not read, and ſee that which you have not ſeen.

Sent to them by *G. F.*

The Power of the Lord *is ariſen, and his glory over all ſhines.*

Printed in the Year 1662.

BIBLE

Christian Meetings

IN THE

WORLD.

A General Epiſtle to be read in all the Chriſtian Meetings in the world, &c.

MY dear Friends, (all every where) in the Seed dwell, which is Chriſt the Top-ſtone over all; feel it laid, in which is life eternal, which is over death, and before death was, & the Devil, the power of it; every one ſitting under their own Vine, which is Chriſt the Life, by whom the World was made, that in that you may all bear fruit to God; and all walking in the Name of the Lord (which is the power) then you walk in ſafety; for bleſſed are all you that riſe in the power of God, and lye down in the ſame power, your beds are pure, holy and undefiled, who lye down in the power of God before unholineſs was: And ſo you that are gathered in the Name of Jeſus, who have bowed to the Name of Jeſus, whoſe Name is called the Power of God, and the Word, Light, Life and Truth; and for bowing to his Name, for his Name ſake have you ſuffered all along by many powers; but the Name is a ſtrong Tower. So who is bowed to the Name, and gathered in the Name of the Lord, ye are in the ſtrong Tower, in which is ſafety and peace; for being gathered in the Name of Chriſt Jeſus, whoſe Name is above every Name, for all things that was made, was made by Chriſt, whoſe Name is above every Name, into his Name are you gathered; ſo above all other names and gatherings are you gathered, who are gathered in the Name of Jeſus Chriſt, by whom all things were made and created; and being gathered in the Name of Jeſus Chriſt by which ſalvation is brought, by the Name of Chriſt, and not by any other Name under Heaven, but by the Name of Jeſus Chriſt is ſalvation brought, by whom all things was made; ſo you being gathered in this Name by which ſalvation is given, here you come to be heirs of ſalvation, and then to inherit ſalvation, which is Chriſt; and by this you come to fathom all other names under the whole Heaven, and to ſee them,

that there is no ſalvation in them; and ſo likewiſe all other gatherings in all other names, no ſalvation in them; therefore cry people, There is no aſſurance of ſalvation upon the earth, vvho are gathered in other names, but not in the Name of Chriſt, by which ſalvation is brought, and given by the Name of Chriſt, by vvhom all things vvere made; and this is the ſtanding gathering in the Name, in the ſtrong Tower, vvhere is the ſafety, vvhere is the ſalvation given and brought. Rejoice ye all that are brought into this gathering, and have bovved to the Name of Jeſus.

Novv to bovv at the Name of Jeſus, he is called the power of God, is to bovv to the povver of God; all things in Heaven, and things in Earth, muſt bovv to the Name of Jeſus before they be reconciled to God; for all things in Heaven, & things in Earth, are reconciled by him in one; ſo they muſt bow to the Name of Jeſus, as they have bowed to the evil, by vvhich they are at difference one among another, and not at unity; bowing to the Name of Jeſus brings to reconciliation, for all things in Heaven, and things in Earth, muſt bow at the name of Jeſus, muſt bow at the povver of God, before they be reconciled in one. So bow at the Name of Jeſus.

2*dly*, You muſt bovv at the Croſs of Chriſt vvhich is the power of God, which ſince the Apoſtles days they have loſt, & therefore bow to a ſtick, a ſtone, a piece of iron, a piece of wood; now bowing to the Croſs of Chriſt which is the power of God, that ſtrikes over the nature of man, who bends, and ſubmits, and yeilds, and bovvs to the power of God within, it riſeth over, and ſtrikes over, and works over the carnal part, and that part that runs into ungodlineſs, and all that is bad, and is a croſs to it. So bow to the power of God. If all Chriſtendom had done this, they had had a fellowſhip in this Croſs, vvhich is a Myſtery; but a croſs ſtick, or a piece of wood, or iron, or ſtone, this is not a myſterie; but the power of God that croſſeth down the earthly, carnal, ungodly part in man and woman, and works over it, and ſtrikes over it, and goes over, and croſſeth it. There is the myſtery of the Croſs of Chriſt, the power of God, in which is the fellowſhip, vvhich power of God keeps over all outward things, and the mind in the everlaſting power of God above them; for the power of God was before unrighteouſneſs and uncleanneſs, and the idolatrous part in man was; which power of God is a croſs to it, and in that is the everlaſting glorying, ſaving nothing

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but the Croſs of Chriſt by which you are crucified to the world, dead to the World, and the World is dead to you; dead to the World through the power of the Croſs, and the World is dead from the power of the Croſs, in which power is the fellowſhip, the Croſs of Chriſt likewiſe.

3dly, The fellowſhip of the Goſpel the power of God, expels away all that that hath darkned the underſtanding, darkned the mind, darkned the heart; and by the power of God Life and Immortality is brought to light in you; by which power of God you come to ſee before that was that hath darkned you from life and immortality, and over that life and immortality ſhines, being in the power of God before that was that had darkned mankind; and the power of God (the Goſpel) expels away that which burdened your ſpirits, minds, hearts conſciences and ſouls; ſo that being expelled away by the power of God, and the mind ſet at liberty, the ſpirit, the conſcience, the heart, the ſoul that is immortal and brought up by the power of God, here the ſoul hath its pleaſure in God; then by the power of God man ſeeth over that which hath burthened his ſpirit, mind, ſoul and conſcience, and beyond it, and before it was, where the ſpirit cryes glad tydings, and the ſoul, mind and conſcience; & here is the joyful goſpel; and here is the faith, the faith of the everlaſting goſpel; the power of God; and here is life and immortality come to light through the power of God, the goſpel, which power of God, the everlaſting goſpel, was before that was that darkned man from life and immortality, and hath loaded peoples minds, hearts, ſouls and conſciences, the power of God was before that was, and remains when that is all gone. So now, ye that are come to be heirs of the goſpel, know it your portion; for as a man is heir of a piece of Land or Houſe, it's his portion (which muſt have an end) and he comes to inherit it; ſo heirs of the goſpel, it's the portion of man and woman, and ſo they inherit it; then you inherit the power of God, which was before the power of darkneſs was, that which hath darkned people from life and immortality, and loaded their ſpirits, heirs of that which was before that was, and ſo inherit the goſpel, inherit the power of God, the goſpel, in vvhich is ſtability; here you are Church-Members, and here you are living ſtones, and here you are built up together a ſpiritual Houſhold; here the Church in God is known, the Father of Chriſt, vvho is the vvay to God,

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where the Church is, for novv as *Adam* and *Evah* is drove from God, and being in the fall, his sons and daughters there are vvith them, Churches enough, heaps upon heaps, one against another, and Heads of every Church, and there plead for sin vvhile they live upon the Earth; but the Church that is in God the Father of Christ, as mankind was drove from God, they must come up again out of the state drove from God, vvhere they are defiled, and be vvashed, sanctified and cleansed, and brought up out of the fall drove from God, up to God. Again, if they come to the Church that is in *God*, and the fellowship vvhich is the gospel fellowship, vvhich is the power of God, in which is stability, before that was that hath unestablished people, the Gospel, the power of God was before the Devil was that hath unestablished people, it vvas; in which gospel is peace, stability, life and immortality come to light, in this is the Church-fellowship with Christ in God, which vvill stand; for the gospel is everlasting, the Church is in God the pillar and ground of truth; therefore this will stand vvhen all other Churches and fellowships amongst the sons and daughters of men in the fall, wil have an end; the Church in God vvill stand, the pillar and ground of truth, and the fellowship of it will remain, Therefore ye heirs of the gospel (then you are Church Members) inherit it, and sit down in the fellovvship of the same, and this is beyond all the Writings, subscribings and promisings to the Church fellowships that be among the sons and daughters of *Adam* in the fall, that vvhen a storm comes, or a tempest, they flye from their Church and fellowship both; but the gospel stands, the Church in God stands, the pillar and ground of truth, which the gates of Hell cannot prevail against.

4thly, The Worship of God in the spirit and in the truth, thats the publick Worship vvhich Christ sets up a top of the Hill; he preached it vvhen he put dovvn the Worship at the Mountain, and at *Jerusalem*, and said, *God is a Spirit; and they that worship him, must worship him in spirit and truth; and the hour is come, and now is, that the Father seek such to worship him*: Then the hour vvas that that Worship vvas set up, above 1600. years since, when he denyed and put dovvn the Worship at the Mountain and at *Jerusalem*, vvhere the fore-fathers vvorshipped: So this Worship in the spirit and in the truth, is contrary to the fore-fathers; this is the publick Worship, this is not private nor particular; Nati-

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ons are particular, Kingdoms are particular, which the sons of *Adam* are broken into several, one against another; but this worship in the spirit and in the truth, hits all men and women; they must come to the spirit in themselves, and the truth in the inward parts; this is publick, this is not private Nations Worship, but brings every man and woman to the Spirit of God in their own hearts, and truth in their inward parts; into which Spirit & Truth they must bow down, and come into it, if they be Worshippers of God in the truth and in the spirit; and this is the standing Worship that Christ sets up a top of the Hill, where *Jacobs* Well was, where the fore-fathers had worshipped; and this is the standing Worship, over the Worship that was at *Jerusalem*, and over the Worship that was at the Mountain; so by this must every man, every son of *Adam*, and daughter, come to the spirit in their own particulars, and truth in themselves, by which they must know God is a spirit, and will be worshipped in the spirit, and in the truth; and so no man must grieve, nor vex, nor quench the spirit, but all must worship in it, and they must come to the truth in the heart, to the hidden man in the heart, to a meek and quiet spirit, and they must not rebel against the spirit, if they worship in it; and all coming to it, they have the adorning, and to that which beautifies & adorns them in the eyes of God; none must walk despitefully against the Spirit of grace, nor turn the grace of God into wantonness, if they worship God in the spirit, if they grieve, vex, quench the Spirit of God within, and turn the grace of God into wantonness, and walk despitefully against the Spirit of God, and rebel against the Spirit of God within, are haters of the Light; these go from the publick Worship of God in the spirit and truth, to the particular, which they invent; they that worship God in the spirit and in the truth, are in that which the Devil is out of, and the Dragons Worship, and the Beasts Worship, and the Will-Worship out of; who worship in the truth and in the spirit, are over all these Worships; for Truth is before they all were, (and the Spirit) and will stand when they are all gone.

Sixthly, To pray in the Spirit, this was publick, the publick prayer set up among the Christians, the Temple was the publike place of prayer among the *Jews*, but to pray in the spirit, which is the publike prayer set up by the Apostles. Every man, every woman then must come to the spirit of God in their own selves,

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for it wil give them understanding, give them knowledge, give them instruction, it wil help their infirmities, it wil let them see their want, the Spirit wil. So in that must every son and daughter of *Adam* pray in the spirit to God, who is a spirit; and this is publick, the spirit of God in every man and woman to pray unto God who is a spirit; then in this spirit have they fellowship and unity, and a bond of peace; and this moderates all people, mortifies, circumciseth and baptizeth. Now who grieves, and quenches, and vexeth, and rebels against the Spirit of God within, in which they should pray, they are like the *Iews* bablers, and go into the particular forms, and go from the publike, which is universal, whereby all men and women must pray to God who is a spirit, in the spirit, and keep out of the particular; one hath one set-form, another another, that is particular, as I said before; but the praying in the spirit is geperal, by which every man and woman might see their necessities and want, and turn to God who is a spirit; for his help; for Christ the quickning spirit, and the spirit of the Lord within, is that which brings people to lift up their eyes to the Lord in spirit and truth, and to watch and pray, by which they know a temptation; which spirit giveth them understanding and wisdom.

6thly, Singing in the Spirit is publike, every man and every woman in the whole World, they must not grieve it, nor vex it, if they sing in it; and this is publick; but they that go from the spirit of God within, they go into the particular singing, inventing this thing and that thing, and then one will do it, and another will not do it, and so there is not fellowship, because it is not done in the spirit, and there is no fellowship in worshipping, in praying, because it is not done in the spirit; for the fellowship in singing, in praying, in worshipping of God, is in the spirit of God, which the Devil is out of, for in that is the bond of peace.

7thly, The Teachers of the World told us (who call'd themselves Ministers of Christ) they received a gift from Christ who did ascend on high, and led captivity captive, and this gift was for the work of the Ministry, and for the perfecting of the Saints, and how that they were to bring people to the knowledge of the Son of God, from whence they had received this gift, and to the unity of the Faith, which Faith gives the Victory, & brings to have access to God, and also to a perfect man, and to the mea-

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ſure of the ſtature of the fulneſs of Chriſt. And thus people followed them, and were glad that they vvould bring them to a perfect man, that vvas, to the ſtate of *Adam* and *Eve* before they fell, for they vvere perfect; and when we had followed them ſome twenty, ſome thirty, ſome more, ſome leſs years, then they told us again, that they hoped we would not look for perfection while we are upon the Earth, on this ſide the grave, we muſt carry a body of ſin about us; and they hoped we would not look for perfection, and would not hold the error of perfection; yet told us before, they would bring us to a perfect man; and ſo we looked they would have fulfilled their words; for we have given our money, and have ſpent our labour after them, and hoped they vvould have fulfilled their words, and brought us to the knowledge of the Son of God, and ſo to the unity of the faith, and to a perfect man, to our Father *Adam*'s and *Eve*'s ſtate before they fell; and novv they have gotten our money, they hope we will not look for perfection: Deceivers! We wil never ſet foot more after them, who wil neither fulfil their words, nor give the money back again; for we gave our money, that they ſhould bring us to the knowledge of the Son of God, and to the unity of the Faith, and bring us to a perfect man, and to the meaſure of the ſtature of the fulneſs of Chriſt: And now all the Scriptures that ſpeak of ſin and imperfection, they bring to prove that we ſhould not be perfect, againſt their own promiſes and words; and all the Scriptures that ſpeak of perfection or overcoming, they tell us there muſt be a meaning to them: And thus they deceived us, inſtead of bringing us to the meaſure of the ſtature of Chriſt, who never fell, the ſecond *Adam*, the Lord from Heaven, who ſaid they would bring us to his ſtature; and now they cannot bring us to the meaſure of the ſtature of the righteouſneſs and holineſs of our Father *Adam* and Mother *Eve*, that they were in before they fell; but they had no body of ſin before they fell, nor ſpot, nor wrinkle, nor blemiſh; ſo the deceiver hath got our money, and now call that an error which they ſaid they would bring us unto (a perfect man) and ſo will not fulfil their vvords, nor give the money back again neither. Therefore now mark vvhich of theſe three ſtates the Shepherds, the Teachers and Leaders kept their Flock in, and do keep them in; Whether is it in the ſtate of *Adam* and *Eve* in the

fall, where the body of death, the curse, wrath and wo is, imperfection, spots, wrinkles and blemishes, and tell them they must be there for term of life; or whether or no do they keep them in the blessed and good state of righteousness and holiness as *Adam* and *Eve* was in before they fell? Or whether or no do they keep them in the measure of the stature of Christ who never fell. Now consider which of these three states do they Shepherds keep their flocks in, that deny perfection, and their sheep must carry a body of death on their backs while on earth; for as the Tree falls, it lyes, and there is no repentance in the Grave. Whether it be not in *Adam* and *Eve* in the fall, with his sons and daughters? or before he fell, which was a good state in righteousness and holiness? Or whether it be in Christ that never fell, whom it cost his blood and his life to fetch *Adam* and *Eve*, and his sons and daughters, out of that state in the fall (in the unjust state) to set them in the state before they fell, and not only there, but into himself that never fell. Now what value and price, and worth have they made of the blood of Christ that cleanseth from sin and death, and yet told people that they would bring them to the knowledge of the Son of God, and to a perfect man, and now tel them they must not be perfect on the earth, but carry a body of sin about them? As much as to say, they must be in the state of their Father *Adam* and their Mother *Eve* in the fall, under the wrath, curse and wo, & must not come to the state they were in before they fell, the image of God, righteousness and true holiness. And thus the deceivers are not worth the setting foot after; and yet ask them for what end Christ came? They wil say, To destroy the Devil and his Works. And then ask them if the body of sin and death be not the Devils Works, and imperfection? They wil say, Yes; and so in confusion; Christ came to destroy, they say, and yet they must carry them, and yet people are saved by Christ they wil say; but while you are upon earth, you must not be made free from sin. This is as much as one should be in *Turky* a slave, chained to a Boat, and one should come to redeem him to go into his own Countrey; but say the *Turks*, Thou art redeemed, but while thou art upon the Earth, thou must not go out of *Turky*, nor have the Chain off thee. So saith Satans Messengers, you are redeemed, but must carry a body of death about you, and

cannot

cannot go to your Father *Adam's* House before he fell, but you must live in your Father *Adams* House in the fall, while ye be upon Earth; but I say, you are redeemed by Christ, it cost him his blood to purchase man out of his state he is in, in the fall, and bring him up to the state before he fell, so became a curse, to bring him out of the curse, and bare the wrath to bring man to the peace of God, that he might come to the blessed state, and to *Adam's* state he was in before he fell; and not onely thither, but to Christ's state that shall never fall. And this is my testimony to you, and to all people upon the Earth: And so the Teachers of the World cryed, Men are redeemed, but while on the Earth they must have Original sin in them, and that is the Devil, for he is the original of sin, and of the body of death, and so they are redeemed, but they must never come to the state of their Father *Adam* before he fell, while on the Earth. This is sad tydings! Are these Messengers of God, or Messengers of Satan? So you may see by this where the Shepherds have set their Flocks, and in what they sit in, in *Adam* and *Eve* in the fall, not in *Adam* and *Eve* before they fell, a good blessed state, but in *Adam* and *Eve* in the fall, a bad, cursed state, and not in Christ that never fell. Now mark, the Apostle said, *He hath quickned us who were dead in sins and trespasses, and hath made us to sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, that in the ages to come he might shew forth his exceeding riches and kindness towards us.* Now the ages are come, glory to the Lord God over all, the Highest for ever, that this kindness and this riches is seen, that the Apostles prophesie is fulfilled, who said, *He had quickned us, and made us to sit together in the Heavenly places in Christ Jesus.* So mark, in Christ Jesus, *Us* the Church, *Us* the Saints, *Us* the believers and true Christians, made us to sit together; Here was their meeting, here was their sitting in the Heavenly places in Christ Jesus the second *Adam*, the Lord from Heaven, him that was glorified with the Father before the World began, him that never fell, but fetcht man and woman out of the fall, to the state that man and woman was in before they fell; and they sit not there, in *Adam* in the fall, not in *Adam* before he fell, but in Heavenly places in Christ Jesus, before *Adam* fell, and there is the safe sitting, in Christ the new and living way, the Word of God, the Power of God, the Light, the Life & Truth, in the first, and in the last, in the beginning, and in the ending,

in him in whom is no ſhadow nor variableneſs, nor ſhadow of turning, in him the Saints ſit, the Church in Chriſt the Head, and there is the exceeding riches and the kindneſs known again; for is not here kindneſs and riches, for man and woman to be brought out of the ſtate in the fall, to the ſtate of *Adam* and *Eve* before they fell; and he that doth bring them thither, it is by his blood, it coſt him his blood, his life, and he doth not leave them in the ſtate as *Adam* and *Eve* was in before they fell, but he ſets them down in himſelf who never fell, a ſafer ſtate than *Adam* was in before he fell. Now who ſits here in the Heavenly places in Chriſt Jeſus, the firſt and the laſt, the beginning and ending, the ſafe place, in the Wiſdom of God; Firſt, They ſee where *Adam* and *Eve* ſate before they fel, bleſſed in a good ſtate, in the Image of God, righteouſneſs and holineſs. 2*dly*, They ſee where *Adam* and *Eve* ſate in the fall, with their ſons and daughters, fallen from righteouſneſs and holineſs, the Image of God, where they have no peace, neither do they ſee God, nor have the dominion over the Creation. 3*dly*, They ſee where the *Jews* ſate, in the types, figures and ſhadows, and Temples, and Oaths, in the Offerings and Sacrifices, and there were they to ſit til Chriſt the Subſtance came to end them all, which Chriſt the Subſtance was before they was. And 4*thly*, They ſee where the Apoſtles ſit in the Heavenly places in Chriſt Jeſus, the ſubſtance of all the types, figures and ſhadows, and ends them all, and was before them all, and is when they are all gone. 5*thly*, They ſee where the Gentiles ſit, in the traditions, inventions, Idols Temple, which God never commanded. 6*thly*, They ſee where all the Apoſtate Chriſtians have ſate ſince the Apoſtles days, in the rudiments, inventions, handy-works, and traditions, and cannot ſit long in them, therefore turn one againſt another. Now 7*thly*, The Age is come that the kindneſs & riches of the Lord is ſeen, which was manifeſt among the Apoſtles and Saints, who ſate in the heavenly places in Chriſt Jeſus, where many ſit now, in Chriſt the Seed, the firſt, the laſt, the beginning and the ending, and who ſits in him, as I ſaid before, ſees where all the Apoſtatized Chriſtians have ſate ſince the Apoſtles days; they have removed their ſeat from the Apoſtles, & have not ſate in the ſeat the Apoſtles, the Saints ſate in; for had they ſate in the Heavenly places in Chriſt Jeſus, him that deſtroyed the enmity, the Devil and his

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Works, they had all ſate in unity and peace, and they ſee where *Jews* ſit, where Gentiles ſit, and where *Adam* and *Eve* ſate before they fel, and where they ſate in the fall with their ſons & daughters, and where the Apoſtles ſate in the heavenly places in Chriſt Jeſus; they that ſit in Chriſt, they ſit in him the Apoſtles ſate in, who is the firſt and the laſt, the beginning and the ending; they ſee the top and Corner-ſtone over all ſet, in which the life flouriſheth over all, which was before the Devil, the power of death, and the power of darkneſs was; which Seed (Chriſt) bruiſeth and deſtroyeth the Serpents head, the Devil and his works; and in him (Chriſt) the Saints ſit, in whom they have the paſtures of life, that floweth over all, death, and before it was, and the power of it. *8thly*, So as new-born babes deſiring the ſincere Milk of the Word, that you may grow thereby, (mark) the Milk that comes from the Word which was in the beginning, by that Milk is the growth, and not in the traditions handle not, nor the rudiments, nor the inventions of men neither, touch them not, taſt them not, for they periſh with the uſing of them; ſo then they do not grow by them: But they may ſay, Thou denieſt the means, becauſe thou doſt not handle the Doctrines, the Commandments, the Rudiments that periſh with the uſing; now that is not the means, but that is the means, the Milk that comes from the Word, by which thou muſt grow, thy growth is not by that which periſheth, but as I ſaid, by the Milk that comes from the word which was in the beginning, before doctrines, traditions, rudiments of men, falſe Churches, falſe ways, falſe teachings, worſhip and religion was, before all theſe was, the word of God was, which thou doſt not grow by any of theſe, if thou ſhould teach them all thy life time, and ſpend thy dayes, thou art never the nearer, neither doſt thou grow by them, nor by the Tongues, which makes their Divines, the beginning of which was *Babel*, which builds up, and throws down, as you may ſee; Did they not build up the Church-Faith and Directory, and now throw them down again? So not worth taking up in the ſtreets. Here is *Babylon*; and were they not offended becauſe you would not touch their *Ordinances*, and told you, *you denyed the means*. Now doth not the word of God live, abide, and endure for ever, when they are gone. So feed upon the Milk of the word, that you may grow by that Milk that coms from the word, that was before *tongues*;

and

and when you are redeemed from Tongues, and see the ceasing of Tongues, and the beginning of Tongues, *Babel*, thou that goest for the Milk of the Word, thou must go before *Babel* and *Babylon* was; for the Word was before *Babel* was, and stands when *Babylon* is down: So the Milk which cometh from the Word, is it by which thou must grow up in the things of God; and this keeps the eye pure, and nourisheth up in the Word of Wisdom, Word of Life, Word of Patience, by the Milk that comes from it, up into Word of Wisdom, for Wisdom is the grey hairs; and so up into the life, up into a living, abiding state; for the Word liveth and abideth for ever; and by the Milk that cometh from the Word which was in the beginning before the fall of man was, with all the confusions, false ways, Worships, Churches, the Word was before they all was, and abides when they are all gone; feed of the Word, the Milk of it, and be quiet with the Milk by which thou groweſt and art nourished up to everlasting life, by which thy fruits be unto holiness, and the end everlasting life, feeding upon the Milk that comes from the Word which was before unholiness was, and stands and remains when all is gone; by these you are all nourished, by this you all grow in a living and abiding state, up into the Word Christ, whose Name is called the Word of *God*, in whom is the sitting down; so heirs of Christ, of salvation, inherit salvation, and heirs of the power of an endless life, and heirs of a Kingdom that hath no end, and of a power of a World to come. So know this to be your portion every one, that you may be heirs of the blessings, and inherit them, that with them you may be cloathed, meeting in the Name, in the strong Tower, meeting in the Spirit in which you pray, worship *God*, and sing, which is the publike Worship of God, which hath been lost since the Apostles dayes, by, and amongst the inward Raveners from the Spirit of God within themselves, which have been got up into particular Worshipping and Praying; which if they come to the publike, they must come to the Spirit of God which their fore-fathers inwardly ravened from, and the publike praying in the Spirit. So dwell in the love of God, build up your selves in the most holy Faith, keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace; Worship *God* in the spirit and truth, the Devil is out of, and enmity, and the adversary, and in that meet in the truth, in the power of God,

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which was before the Devil was, in vvhich is the perfect fellowſhip, the Goſpel-fellowſhip, the perfect fellowſhip vvhich ſtands in the povver of God, vvhich vvas before the Devil vvas, or the fall of man either, vvhere all imperfection vvas and is, vvhich the Power of God expels away, in vvhich is the perfect fellovvſhip, as I ſaid before; the Worſhip of God is a perfect Worſhip, it is in the truth, in the ſpirit; ſo the truth is that the Devil is out of, and all imperfection, which truth vvas before imperfection; the Worſhip in the truth never changeth, the God of all truth, who is a Spirit; and this is the perfect ſtanding Worſhip, vvhich vvil ſtand vvhen all the Worſhips in the fall is gone, Devil, Dragon, Beaſt and Will-Worſhip; for truth was before they all vvas; for they are not perfect being out of truth, out of that vvhich is perfect. So all Friends be faithful and valiant for the Truth of God upon the Earth; For there are Religions for *Summer*, vvhile the Sun ſhines, amongſt the ſons of *Adam* in the fall; but when the ſtorm comes, their flight is in the Winter: So this day manifeſteth every birth of vvhat ſort it is, and at that look; it is not profeſſing God, nor Chriſt, nor Scriptures, nor Ordinances, but mind the birth, he that is born of the fleſh, and he that is born of the Spirit, together vvith each fruits; For he that is born of the Spirit, is the Royal birth of God, whoſe Fruits is above him that is born of the fleſh below, not in righteouſneſs & love, nor of the ſpirit; and ſo each birth hath its Religion, hath its Worſhip, hath its praying and its ſinging; but when the Winter comes, then is its flight, and then the Wall-makers are diſcovered; the Hireling flieth becauſe he is an Hireling; but ye mind the Power of God, which was before Winter-ſtorms was, and ſuch Religion as is while their Sun ſhine, and the Summer is, but when the Winter comes, is gone. Therefore mind ye the Power of God, that ye may bear fruit in Winter, and ſit under your Vine, Chriſt Jeſus, that you may ſee before Winter Storms and Tempeſts was, & that which ſhall never have an end nor change, in this is the pure Religion; and ſo in the Name of the Lord being gathered, having bowed to it, then you are in the ſtrong Tower in the deepeſt ſtorms, tempeſt, being in the Name of the Lord, by whom all things was made; there is the ſtrong Tower, yon are ſafe in all Waves, Tempeſts, Winds, Haile, Floods, being in the Name of the Lord, your ſtrong Tower. And ſo feel the

Seed

Seed of God, Friends, and Brethren, and Babes, Over all, that ſet, that makes to ſuffer, which was before that was which makes to ſuffer, and wil ſtand and remain when that is gone that makes to ſuffer, that in that you may know Chriſts reign, the Seed reign in which there is life eternal, and you wil have life eternal, and ſo feel the top-ſtone over all laid; and hearing the voice of Chriſt which is the Light, the Light's voice, the Life's voice, the Truth's voice, the Power of God's voice, which goes before you, through which you may have Life eternal, in Chriſt's Fold, where his ſheep carry no body of ſin upon their backs, for that is carryed in Satans Fold, which Chriſt's ſheep is put out of abundantly, which Life (Chriſt) did fore-ſee the Hirelings flying when the Wolf comes. And ſo Chriſtendom have more minded the Hirelings voice, then Chriſt the Lights voice, the Truths voice, the voice of the Life of the Power of God in themſelves, they have gone from that, and gone to the voice of the Hireling, who flyes when the Wolf comes, leaves his Flock, and cares not for it. Therefore you that have heard the voice of Chriſt, which are of his ſheep, and follow him, who hath put you forth, who goeth before you, & you have followed him, follow him, he will give you life eternal, for he is the reſt, and the ſitting down in the Heavenly places in Chriſt Jeſus, heirs of Grace, and Grace comes by Chriſt: Now the Grace of God that brings ſalvation, hath appeared unto all men, which if all men minded it, this is publick, it would teach them to live righteouſly, ſoberly and godly, and to deny the contrary, and then come to be heirs of this Grace, inherit it, the Grace, and ſo inherit their Teacher that bringeth ſalvation, and ſo come to enjoy ſalvation, and inherit Chriſt, in whom is the Light & Life, and in him is the ſitting down in the ſalvation.

All keep to the beauty of holineſs, for in holineſs lyes your beauty, and the fruits of righteouſneſs is a tree of Life, and the Name of the Lord is a ſtrong Tower, and the righteous flye into it, and are ſafe.

Let this be ſent to all Friends Meetings in *England*, *Scotland* and *Ireland*.

From *Cockford* in *Eſſex* the 12*th*. day of the 11*th*. Month, 1662. G. F.

To

To the called of God every where, who are Witneſſes of the Eternal Excellency of the Son of Righteouſneſs, who is now appeared in his Majeſty and glory, in this day of the Fathers love to the Children of men.

MY dear and everlaſtingly well-beloved Brethren and Siſters, with whom in the Covenant of Life, and Kingdom of Peace and Glory, and Eternal Felicity, my ſoul reſts, and is at peace and perfect freedom, where the glorious preſence of the holy God of Life (who is Iſraels Shepherd) is enjoyed, and is known to be an open Fountain, daily adminiſtring of his heavenly virtue and goodneſs, to the conſolating and refreſhing of our immortal ſouls; ſo that we have no cauſe to complain of poverty and want, becauſe he who is the Fountain of all good, is continually with us, and never ceaſes to adminiſter unto his own, according to their ſeveral neceſſities, as in his pure fear and power they wait upon him, and walk before him: And this I know many of you are not unſenſible of, for whom a Feaſt of fat things is prepared, and a Table richly decked is ſpread before you, where every hungry one may feed and be refreſhed, and the breaſts of conſolation is alſo known, at which every Babe may ſuck and be ſatisfied; and ſo all having acceſs unto this, they may here be delighted with the abundance of the Treaſures of my Fathers Heavenly Kingdom, the windows whereof being now opened, a bleſſing is poured forth without meaſure. Oh that all who profeſs the Name of the Lord, were throughly ſenſible of this thing! then would

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their ſouls with us delight in fatneſs, and their hearts be enlarged thereby, ſo that they would find encouragement to run the way of his commandments, even with delight, and nothing would be accounted dear to part withal for his ſake who hath called us, and is bringing many ſons and daughters unto glory and virtue: Wherefore my dearly beloved Friends, be ye encouraged to walk on in the way of the Lord, though it be ſtrait to the earthly man, and be ye content to paſs through evil report & good report, and let him be your example in all things, who when he was reviled, reviled not again, and when he ſuffered, he threatned not, but committed it to him that judgeth righteouſly, and as a Lamb before the Shearer is dumb, ſo he opened not his mouth. Therefore I ſay friends, Let none be diſcouraged becauſe of tryals, ſufferings and perſecutions, nor becauſe of the frowns of the enemies of Gods truth, neither be diſcouraged becauſe of the proſperity of the wicked, whoſe day ſhall paſs away ſwiftly, and ſhall be no more; but every one put on ſtrength and courage, and boldneſs in the Name of the Lord, and as valiant Souldiers endure hardſhips, and fight the good fight of faith, and lay hold of eternal life; for the Lord God Almighty is with us, and takes our part, and he aſſuredly wil fight our battle for us, before whom all the Nations of the earth is but as the drop of a bucket; and therefore it's but in vain for them to contend with the Almighty, who is on our ſide, and is greater in us then he that is in the World, whoſe eternal glory and excellency is now revealed; Praiſes and Hallelujahs to the Moſt High for ever.

Wherefore ariſe, ariſe thou Seed of the Covenant, ariſe and ſhine, for thy Light is come, and the glory of the Lord is ariſen upon thee; though the earth be covered with darkneſs, and groſs darkneſs be over the people, yet the Lord is become thy everlaſting Light, and thy God thy glory. Wherefore ſhake thy ſelf from the duſt of the Earth, and put on thy beautiful garments, oh *Jeruſalem*, the holy City; for this I teſtifie in the Name of the Lord, That henceforth there ſhall not come into thee the uncircumciſed, nor the unclean, but thou ſhalt be called the City of God, the place wherein his honor dwelleth. Wherefore all ye Inhabitants thereof, my fellow-Citizens and beloved Brethren and Siſters, with whom my Life is bound up, and with whom

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my ſoul rejoiceth, who are ſurrounded with the great ſalvation of God, and knows it to be the Wall of this holy City, the Gates whereof is praiſe, and ſtands open night and day, though the unclean cannot enter into it. I ſay unto you all, Let the high praiſes of God be in your mouths, and ceaſe not to make mention of the wonders of the Lord, and of his Works which he hath wrought for you, and tell of his goodneſs and loving-kindneſs, and ſpeak of his praiſe, that the glory of his appearance in you, may be admired amongſt the Heathen in this the day of the Lords power, wherein his Excellency and Majeſty is ſeen, of which we are eye-witneſſes; and therefore can we not ceaſe to make known his power and coming, that others alſo may be turned to the Light of God in them, there to wait for his appearance; and though there be a generation that would have us ſilenced, as the Phariſees would have had Chriſt to rebuke his Diſciples when they went triumphing to *Jeruſalem*, and the high praiſes of God was in their mouths, yet they were not to hold their peace, but to go on and preach his Name amongſt all Nations, that people might be turned unto God; and though they were again afterwards charged to ſpeak no more in his Name, yet they conſidered, that it was better to obey God than man; for they who followed the Lamb were called choſen and faithful, and they loved not their lives unto the death, but went on preaching boldly in the Name of Jeſus, not regarding the threatnings of corrupt man, but had reſpect unto the Lord above all, who is the ſame at this day as ever he was, and his faithfulneſs is the ſame for ever unto them that become faithful unto him; and his wondrous Works, and Majeſty, and Glory is now ſeen by us in this our day, even as by them in the dayes of old; wherefore let the ſame courage, and boldneſs, and faithfulneſs be ſeen to appear amongſt you, as was in them, though I do not at all upbraid you, neither was it in my heart ſo to do, but as a brother of the ſame root and off-ſpring with you, who are begotten by the ſame Word, and brought forth of the ſame eternal Womb, which is holy for ever, do I exhort you in bowels of the ſame tender love, with which my heart is filled, to continue in ſtedfaſtneſs, & hold faſt your integrity in faithfulneſs unto the end, every one in your ſeveral *ſtations & callings*, that you may adorn the *glorious Goſpel of peace & ſalvation*, that ſo you dwelling in the *pure heavenly, divine power*, thereby your lips may be open'd, &

mouths may ſhew forth his praiſe, that his Name may be known to be great in the Aſſemblies of his Saints, and in the Congregations of the righteous, that ſo Nations may be gathered unto him, & Kings unto the brightneſs of his riſing, that ſo the Name of the Lord may be ſpread even to the ends of the Earth, which is now to be exalted above every Name, to which all knees muſt bow, and all tongues confeſs.

Wherefore all you my beloved Friends, Brethren and Siſters, who are of the Royal Off ſpring, and of the holy Seed, which is the Heir of Bleſſing, and Promiſe of the Father, I ſay unto you all, Dwel in the feeling of the immortal birth, every one in your own particulars, for therein the Worſhip ſtands, and to that the bleſſing is ſure; and as you keep faithfully joined unto it, therein you wil know the Heavenly Dominion and Power, which goes over the Powers of the Earth, and darkneſs with which the earth is covered, and wil give you to ſee before they were; and here the Son is known glorified again with the ſame glory that he had with the Father in the beginning before the World was, and who is the expreſs Image of his Fathers ſubſtance, and in whom the fulneſs of the God-head dwells, and hath all power in Heaven and Earth given unto him. And this is he who is now come in power and great glory, of whoſe power and coming you are his Cloud of Witneſſes, who know the birth of the Immortal Seed; and it is becauſe of this that the Heathen rage, and the Nations are angry, and therefore do they revile and perſecute, & ſmite with the fiſt of Wickedneſs, according as it is written, He that is born after the fleſh, perſecutes him that is born after the Spirit; and theſe things do they unto you, becauſe they know not him of whoſe coming you are Witneſſes.

Nevertheleſs dwell ye in the Spirit, and walk in the Spirit, you that have the ſence and feeling of the working and operation thereof in your inward parts, in any meaſure, and anſwer the motions thereof in all things, for therein your peace and conſolation conſiſteth, and your everlaſting refreſhment, which none can hinder you of, as you obey the truth, according to the motions of the Spirit of Truth; and therein walking, you will not fulfil the luſts of the fleſh, but the Croſs will be dwelt in, and ſelf-denial wil be known and witneſſed, and the power of the Lord wil be felt, which makes willing to come into the

the obedience of the Croſs, whereby the contrary part will be crucified and mortified, and the old man will be wholly put off, with his deeds, and the nevv man put on, which is created after God in righteouſneſs and true holineſs; and ſo here-vvalking every one in your ovvn meaſures, in faithfulneſs to the Lord, you vvill feel the Lord adminiſtring unto you of his rich virtue, to the filling of your hearts, and to the making of your Cups to overflow; for this I teſtifie unto you, and that by the Spirit of the Lord, That the Lords Love and Mercies, and the riches of his Grace, did never more abound in the hearts of his people in any age or generation, then it doth in this our day, in the hearts of all who obey and followv him, and give up unto him in all his leadings and requirings; and therefore I once more ſay unto you my beloved ones, give up in ſingleneſs to followv the Lord in vvhatſoever he leads you unto, and vvalk vvith him in the povver of his ovvn Spirit of Life, and let the righteouſneſs of God go before you, and his everlaſting glory ſhall be your rearvvard.

And ſo dear hearts, feel your ſelves covered vvith his Spirit of Life, for that ſhall and vvil remain vvhen all falſe coverings ſhall be ript off, and all empty profeſſors and outſide ſhevvs vvill vvither and have an end, and come to nothing; therefore ye as wiſe Virgins have Oyle in your Lamps, and ſee that your Lamps are kept trimmed and burning, that ſo you may be ready at all times to enter in vvith the Bridegroom into the Marriage-Chamber, ſo vvill you have joy, felicity and gladneſs of heart, and no cauſe of ſorrow vvil there be vvhile you enjoy the Bridegroom of your ſouls preſent vvith you, vvho vvil be an everlaſting Comforter unto you, vvith vvhom you vvil knovv an everlaſting reſt, and that peace you vvil be heirs of, & poſſeſs, which paſſeth the underſtanding of the World; and in this you vvil have ſtrong conſolation and comfort, even that vvhich can never be blaſted, but whatſoever flouriſheth and may ſeem proſperous for a time, if it be not in and by the power of the Lord, that vvil the Lord blaſt and cauſe to wither as the flovver of the graſs; add this your eye ſhall ſee, if you keep in the Eternal Power of the Lord, vvhich keeps the inviſible eye pure, which alone perceives the things of God: So in the pure power of the Lord dwel and keep, that you may be kept in a clear diſcerning and ſenſibleneſs of your own particular conditions, and how it ſtands with

with you in the presence of the Lord, that you may know your peace and unity with him, and one with another, that so all being kept in the power and unity of the one spirit, in that you may exhort one another, and so much the more as you see the day approaching, that so you may be strengthened one by another, and may build up one another in the precious living truth, and therein edifie one another in love, that so you may stand over the World, and over that part in which the enmity stands, which is against God, so wil it appear unto all men, that you are the people which God hath blessed.

And now my dearly beloved Friends, these few lines have I writ unto you from the aboundings of the love of my Heavenly Father, which he hath shed abroad in my heart towards you all; and by this love onely was I constrained thereunto, wherein in some measure is manifested that real & unfeigned love which dwelleth in me, and daily extends it self unto the whole Household of Faith wheresoever they are, with whom I am at this time even wrapt up with the Garment of praise, and in the pure unity of the Spirit of Life, and endless, unspotted love, do I purely salute you all, giving you up to the protection of the Almighty, whose tender care is over all his, and watcheth over his own inheritance night and day, so that the devourer cannot prevail to lay it waste nor desolate: Wherefore let your confidence and trust be in him alwayes, and continue you in the Grace of God which hath appeared, and the sufficiency thereof you will more and more see and witness daily; and blessed in the Name of the Lord God Almighty, are all they whose trust and confidence is in him alone, for they shall never be ashamed nor confounded, but shall be as *Mount Sion*, which cannot be moved: So the Lord God Almighty of Heaven and Earth, keep you all, and preserve you all in the enjoyment of the fulness of the blessing of the Gospel of peace, that you all may know your rest to remain, where neither storms can disturb you, nor tempests make you afraid, in which I am with you all who are of the Family of God,

Your truly loving and faithful Brother,

Josiah Coale.

THE END.